



TASK FORCE FALCON



Falcon Flier

Volume 6, Issue 8

Produced for the personnel of Task Force Falcon

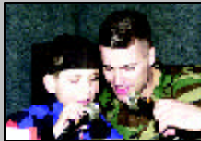
march 4, 2002

What's Inside...



I'm gonna knock you out...

JAG Officer pursues boxing dream.
Page 4



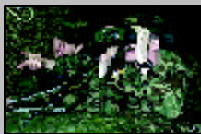
Hey Mr. D.J. ...

MP becomes local radio celebrity.
Page 5



Snap shots...

Check out soldiers in action in the best of Combat Camera.
Pages 8-9



In the DOG house...

Deployable Operations Group trains soldiers in Kosovo.
Page 12



Cpl. Taylor Barbaree/photo

Spc. Gary Gaylord, a driver with the 377th Transportation Co. (Mannheim, Germany), guides a Slovakian tank off the back of his HET at the MNB (C) Waterloo Lines compound on Feb. 18th. The 377th is attached to the 10th Mountain Division's, 10th Logistical Force during Rotation 3B.

TFF transportation company assists MNB (C) by trucking Slovakian tanks to United Kingdom compound

by Cpl. Taylor Barbaree
Editor

PRISTINARAILHEAD. Kosovo—During the Cold War, these two armies were once prepared to stage tanks against each other along the German border. Now U.S. Army soldiers of the 181st Transportation Battalion (Mannheim, Germany) and troops from the 1st Czech-Slovak Battalion are working here together.

Pertinent to the KFOR peacekeeping mission of providing a safe and secure environment for the citizens of Kosovo, the truck drivers from the 181st, which is attached to the 10th Logistical Task Force during their deployment in Kosovo, were charged with the responsibility of moving Slovakian armed personnel carriers (APC's) or tanks to another location within the Multinational Brigade

(Central) sector. Swedish soldiers also assisted in the February 18th, multinational operation as well.

"We were asked by the Norwegian LNO officer at KFOR Main (located in Pristina) if we had the capability of moving Slovakian Tanks to a newly established Czech Republic-Slovakian base camp," said Master Sgt. James Hickam, 10th Logistical Support Operations NCOIC, noting the historical importance of the mission.

"When this mission is complete, our soldiers will leave here knowing they have truly made a difference to help the people of Kosovo, but also established ties with other countries in helping support a new base camp in the Multinational Brigade (Central) sector," Hickam said.

Hickam said the final destination for the tanks would

be at Camp Sajkovac.

"Our mission here today is to move these APC's on our HET (Heavy Equipment Trucks) to Waterloo Lines (a British compound), which is located about an hour northeast of this location," explained Staff Sgt. Michael John, a squad leader with the 377th Transportation Company, a subordinate unit of the 181st Transportation Battalion. "We have six tanks total that we will transport, so there will be another trip after this one."

This is a good experience for us. Although we primarily haul track vehicles like these, this is a learning opportunity for us because we have never moved Slovakian equipment or interacted with soldiers from other countries until now," he said.

After making their trip via train from Slovakia, the green

monstrous tanks, weighing near the 64-ton mark, were ready to begin the trek across Kosovo to their new home. First, however, the process of loading and securing the tracked vehicles on the HET took place. Utilizing the guidance of the 12 soldiers from the 181st Transportation Battalion, the Slovakian tankers moved their machines across the parched soil of the railhead site to the back of HET's flatbed trailer. Once aboard, it took about 30 minutes for the crew of drivers and assistant drivers to secure the equipment for movement to Waterloo Lines. However, one obstacle remained, that being the difficult task of driving through the narrow and crowded thoroughfares of Pristina.

"This is tedious work sometimes," said Spc. Robert (Please see HAUL, page 14)

Visit us on line at <http://www.tffalcon.hqusareur.army.mil>

TFF Commanding General

Take time to reflect on your place in history



Brig. Gen. Keith M. Huber

We have just completed the halfway mark of our six-month mission in Kosovo. And as we have been fortunate to receive a bonafide Army historian, Maj. (William) Story, I would like the Multinational Brigade (East) family to discipline themselves to find some time to reflect and to appreciate, without arrogance,

the historical fact that what we are doing in Kosovo is in fact history. The men and women with whom we so proudly serve are making history.

People, in the not to distant future, will read about our day-to-day actions. They will wonder what our strategy was, what our plan was, what inspired us, what motivated us and what enabled us to continually be successful.

And even now our replacements, KFOR 4Alpha, are undergoing their MRE in Germany, much like we did in September at Fort Polk, La., at JRTC. As they have scripted their training scenario, they have used our current mission, our

current situation, our current threats and our current environment as history. As the environment and the conditions against which they will be graded, they will be evaluated and tested. So already our actions, our challenges, our frustrations, our mistakes and our successes have become history.

So what I ask you all to do now is to find some time, individually and collectively, as soldiers, as leaders, as members of this very successful team to sit back and to think, to reflect upon the lessons learned, upon what you have learned as a human being and as a soldier, and what your unit has learned. And then to humbly write down, document these lessons that you have learned. We have a responsibility; we have an obligation to the Army as an institution, and to our fellow soldiers, to the people who will follow behind us, to the people who will walk along the trail that we're on right now. We have this obligation to formerly document, in sufficient detail, what will then go into history as the facts, not necessarily our personal opinion, or our personal reflection, but the facts here, the situation we faced. Here were the threats. Here is how we plan to deal with these threats, with this situation. Here's what we tried, here's what worked, here's what didn't work, then constantly doing that assessment as to here is why it worked, or here is why it didn't work.

Once again, to me, the most important question that we have to ask ourselves is why.

Because nothing is out of coincidence. And every action has a second and third order affect. Every action has a consequence someplace else. So when you observe something occurring, or when you do something, what you have got to do is ask yourself why, to understand. And then that will tell you why you may have been successful, or why you may have been unsuccessful, or why you got angry, or why you got upset or why you got surprised. It is this self-reflection, it is this constant assessment, it is this analysis that then truly creates the lessons learned and will be the guiding chem light along this path that will then allow us to stay on track, to stay on the proper path, to not falter, to not get lost.

So use this time to physically write down history, to physically write down what challenges we faced, what actions we took, what lessons we learned. Do it now, because you know that time here is such a blur, and we are caught up in so many important activities. Do it now, so that people who will follow us will benefit from it, so that Maj. Story's efforts to capture this historical moment in time, to capture the accomplishments of all our soldiers, of all of our great civilians of the family that we have here with us now in Kosovo, will be successful. That is our obligation. That is our responsibility, and all of you will be in the pages of history, as you have earned that distinction.

Climb to Glory ... To the Top!

TFF Command Sergeant Major

Take time to reflect on mission, goals and your Army career



Command Sgt. Maj. Ted Walker

Can you feel it? We are reaching our Climb to Glory!

For some of you, you will be returning home soon. Others, will be here until the TOA takes place in May. One thing's for certain. Our replacement units are presently receiving beneficial training for their time here during Rotation 4A.

As your time draws closer to return to home, I want to emphasize what General Huber has asked of us as soldiers and individuals. And that is to take a moment to reflect on your time spent here. How have you improved as a soldier?

As a person?

I think if you spend some time reflecting on your stay here, you will find it rewarding. For me in a professional sense, this deployment has afforded me a great opportunity to get back on the same level with you- the soldiers- in a field environment. Back in garrison, that is an opportunity that I never seem to be able to spend a lot of time doing. I truly enjoy visiting with each of you. I have also learned a great deal from you. Such as how can I better serve you as your command sergeant major? What are some better ways your NCO support channel can serve you?

On a personal level, reflecting on my time here in Kosovo, I have realized that this is possibly the last opportunity that I will have to deploy with the Army. I have also been thinking about my career after the Army. Which leads me to my next subject. Have you prepared yourself for life after your military career is over? As I have visited with each of you. You indicated that your military career will end as soon as your enlistment term is up. While that certainly is your

decision to make, I ask you to consider what lies ahead after your enlistment is up. If you don't know have an answer, you might consider reenlistment into another MOS career field. Most MOS's have bonuses available and offer great opportunities to receive the knowledge and experience needed in today's work force outside of the Army, so that when you are ready to leave there are opportunities available for you.

Finally, I ask you to reflect on your time here in a positive manner. I am the first to admit that certain aspects of any deployment are not the most gratifying of experiences. There is also a lot of stress involved, not to mention the long duty hours. But with those intangibles, there are also some positives. I find those in the fact that we have all come together to insure that the people of Kosovo live in a safe, secure environment. I also find pride in the fact that you have performed well thus far. Keep it up and we will insure we succeed in "Our Climb to Glory!"

About the Falcon Flier...

The Falcon Flier newspaper is an official publication of Task Force Falcon and is used for the intent purpose of providing command information to servicemembers serving in the TFF area of operation. The Falcon Flier is produced by the 131st MPAD (Alabama Army National Guard), TFF PAO. Contents of the Falcon Flier newspaper are not necessarily official views, nor endorsed by the U.S. Government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army or the 10th Mountain Division.

The Falcon Flier newspaper is published bimonthly, using offset press by the TFF Public Affairs office located in Building 1320, Camp Bondsteel.

Submissions or story ideas related to the TFF mission are encouraged and should be directed to the editor at 781-5200; or by mail at HQ Task Force Falcon PAO, Attn: Editor, Camp Bondsteel APO AE 09340 or e-mail at taylor.barbaree@bondsteel2.areu.army.mil. Printed Circulation: 4,000.



Task Force Falcon Public Affairs Staff

TFF Commander.....Brig. Gen. Keith M. Huber
TFF Public Affairs Officer.....Maj. James T. Crews
KFOR Media Liaison.....Capt. John Tongret
Camp Bondsteel OIC.....Capt. Larry McDonald
Camp Bondsteel Information Officer.....Capt. Charles DeVinner
Public Affairs Supervisor.....Master Sgt. Robert C. Brown
Camp Bondsteel Administrative Specialist.....Spc. Lena Mills
Camp Bondsteel Media Relations NCOIC.....Sgt. 1st Class Melinda Early
Camp Bondsteel Press Section NCOIC.....Staff Sgt. Michael P. McCord
Camp Bondsteel Broadcast NCOIC.....Staff Sgt. Britt Smith
Camp Bondsteel Broadcasters.....Sgt. Jeff Camp.Spc. Myra Bush
Camp Monteith NCOIC.....Sgt. 1st Class Wilfred Leavitt
Camp Monteith Administrative Specialist.....Cpl. Jamie Henshon
Camp Monteith Broadcaster.....Spc. Marty Dyson

Task Force Falcon Flier Staff

Senior Editor.....Sgt. Jamie Brown
Editor.....Cpl. Taylor P. Barbaree
Daily Flier/Webmaster.....Spc. Terry Boggs
Staff Writers.....Spc. Molly Jones, Spc. Bill Putnam

Soldier on the Street

What accomplishment in Kosovo are you most proud of?



Sgt. John Martinez,
Crew Chief
717th Medical Co. (Task Force Dragon)
(Camp Bondsteel)

"This deployment has allowed me to learn my MOS better, whereas in the National Guard I have limited opportunities."



Spc. Jenae Nesbit,
Admin. Specialist
G-2, TFF TOC (10th Mountain Division)
(Camp Bondsteel)

"I started working on my E-5 by doing correspondence courses."



Sgt. Pedro Centeno,
S-1
HHC, 1st Battalion, 32nd Infantry Reg.
(Camp Magrath)

"I've managed to pay off some bills, and saved a lot of money since I've been here."



Staff Sgt. Cheri Nilsen,
Cash Control Officer
Delta Detachment, 10th SSB
(Camp Bondsteel)

"We successfully introduced the Euro into this region. It wasn't that easy."



Staff Sgt. Douglas Biala,
NCOIC, Physical Therapy Clinic
TFMF V
(Camp Bondsteel)

"I've improved my physical fitness and my clinical skills."



Spc. Meg Takishita,
Intelligence Analyst
G-2 Operations (TOC)
10th Mountain Division
(Camp Bondsteel)

"I learned about a new culture."

— Compiled by TFF Falcon Flier Staff

Commentary

The times are a changin

by Staff Sgt. Michael P. McCord
Press Section NCOIC

I remember Basic Training at Fort McClellan, Ala. It was 1980. The cold war still raged. Amidst the swaying long needle pine trees at the rifle ranges were images tacked to trees. Pictures of Soviet troops in the uniforms, and holding the weapons of the day, were posted all around the site. These were not so gentle reminders of our "enemy" since the close of World War II. The serious looks they gave us green wannabe's was designed to get our attention, which it sometimes did.

My, how times have changed. There is no way in the world I would have thought I would be standing side-by-side with Russian soldiers just 20 years later. Friends, comrades, partners-in-peace, call it what you will; we are no longer at each other's throats. Our younger soldiers might not remember the call to arms against communism and its threat to our American way of life. Playing cards displayed Soviet military hardware. We just knew those tanks and artillery would come through the Fulda Gap, in West Germany, at any moment. But month after month, turned to year after year, until 1989, at the Bernauer Strasse, in Berlin, when the official destruction of the dividing wall came crumbling down.

Time heals many wounds. The power of freedom didn't hurt either. When the wall came down in Berlin, the dam burst and free people flowed through.

Fast forward to the present.

Here we are in Kosovo, providing a safe and secure environment for all the citizens of Kosovo. This province, embroiled in a centuries old cultural dispute, not easily understood, nor explained to the soldiers that serve here from all over the world, is a bit like the description used to define the Soviet communist model; an enigma wrapped in a mystery, surrounded by a question mark.

I can't fathom why someone would kill a child in cold-blood, someone's baby, an innocent bystander who did nothing wrong. I've lain in my bunk late at night wondering what it would take to stop this unending nightmare for these people. If we help them work together, then maybe those wounds will heal. Time will tell. A strong leadership to involve all factions would be a start.

I just finished reading a book on George Washington, our first president. It retold his life from a child, events that shaped his life, and the tremendous task of uniting the colonies. Like the present day Balkans, the fledgling states were a cantankerous, uncomfortable mix of different people from different backgrounds. The trials and troubles of these early citizens are well documented. It took the dogged will and determination of George Washington to pull these pioneers together for the hope of freedom. His dauntless leadership went through many adverse moments and personal hardships, but it stood steadfast. His leadership skills, learned early in life, gave the movement strength when it desperately needed it.

The elected leadership here will decide what's most important, and I'll bet that industry and the jobs that follow will be high on the list. The promise of a job and the benefits it will incur for families are enormous. But change and thought processes take time to gain a solid foothold.

I'm sure many of these people will have a hard time forgetting the past. At some point this mindset must be filed away and the future discussed. Hopefully, our presence will help to bring it about.

I grew up thinking we would eventually fight a war with the Russians. I have changed my view now. In my career I have seen that people are the same everywhere. They want the same things. They want to provide for their families and live in peace. If our little bit of time here in Kosovo helps to bring that about, then we have something we can tell our grandchildren about. We pray and hope it happens sooner, rather than later.

JAG officer eyes All-Army Boxing team

by Cpl. Taylor Barbaree
Editor

CAMP BONDSTEEL— Army JAG Capt. Katherine Gardner can throw some pretty mean punches- literally. The Cleveland right-hander, known by the nickname "Kasia" (Polish for Katherine), has a goal of one day stepping into the ring as a member of the All-Army Boxing Team.

"That is my desire, to step into the ring," she admits, then pausing to explain the reasoning behind her decision to pursue an amateur boxing career.

"Boxing is something that I have always wanted to do," she said. "Being deployed at a camp with both heavy bags and a coach affords me the opportunity to insure it will become a reality."

Specifically, Gardner points to two occurrences that fueled her desire to one day duel inside the rectangular arena.

"When I was six-years-old, I can remember meeting (boxing promoter) Don King in the airport. From that point I was always intrigued with the sport of boxing. However, more recently, it was due to an injury that I sustained while running that I decided to take it up as a means to better condition myself," she said. "The more I train the more I realize that I want to pursue it."

So it is not uncommon to see her at the Camp Bondsteel MWR (midtown) "Bubble Gym" working out twice each week with boxing coach, Sgt. 1st Class Byron Knox.

Knox, NCOIC of the TFF IG's office and a former amateur boxer from Michigan, said his

student already possesses the right tools to become a good boxer.

"Mental attitude and being physically fit are a big part of becoming a good boxer. Training is also another important aspect," he said. "Because Captain Gardner is both focused and in such great physical shape (her best two mile run time is 13:20), we are able to work more on her boxing techniques."

Still, despite being superbly fit, Knox said Gardner's passion is her biggest attribute.

"A lot of people want to learn to box and aspire to one day step into the ring, but they just don't have the heart to go through with the training that it requires, or they are afraid of being hit. With Captain Gardner, as I've said, she has a willingness to learn and a desire to compete."

Even though boxing is something that the 26-year-old University of South Carolina Law School graduate takes seriously, she admits that there is some humor to be found in her situation.

"My friends look at me like I am nuts, and those that don't know me give me a strange look when I'm in the gym boxing with my gloves and headgear on," she said smiling, while her and husband, Capt. David Gardner, a finance officer with 10th SSB, exchange verbal jabs.

"He doesn't understand why I want to hit people or risk being hit," she said.



Cpl. Taylor Barbaree/photo

Capt. Katherine "Kasia" Gardner and boxing coach Sgt. 1st Class Byron Knox during a recent training session.

"And I admit that not only can she outrun me, now she can beat me up as well," he said.

Humor aside, Gardner has at least one fan other than her husband and trainer.

Capt. Eileen Jenkins, TFF G-3 training officer, admires the commitment that her friend/roommate has made.

"I think it's great," Jenkins said. "Kasia is really enjoying the sport, and she gets better every week. I have no doubt that she will excel in boxing. My advice to her is

follow your dreams and don't let anyone stand in your way. The All-Army Team is within your reach- continue to go for it."

And she plans to do just that.

"I am planning to try out for the "All-Army Team next year," Gardner said. "However, I place my mission in the Army as a JAG officer first. I love what I do and that is helping soldiers with their legal issues."

TFF commander gives recognition to TMK unit for inclusion of minorities

by Sgt. Jamie Brown
Senior Editor

VITINA/VITI, Kosovo— Brig. Gen. Keith M. Huber, Task Force Falcon commander and Suliman Salimi, deputy commander of the Kosovo Protection Corps (TMK) presented Bafti Lubistani, commander of Detachment 363, Kosovo Protection Corps, with a certificate of achievement for his unit's recruitment and acceptance of minorities. The ceremony took place Feb. 18, at Detachment 363's headquarters. Huber, Salimi and Imri Ilazi, commander of RTG-6 of the TMK, all spoke at the ceremony.

"The TMK has to be multi-ethnic, by having all the nationalities join the TMK, to give the perfect example, not just for the TMK, but for all the people of Kosovo," Ilazi said.

That sentiment was echoed by both Huber and Salimi.

"The multi-ethnicity of the TMK shows our future vision and our mission for the future," Salimi said.

"I'm here to share this moment with you, because it's important to me, and to the people of Kosovo," Huber said.



Sgt. Jamie Brown/photo

TFF Commander, Brig. Gen. Keith M. Huber presents Bafti Lubistani, commander of Detachment 363, KPC with a certificate of appreciation.

"Institutions in a democracy must lead the way to the future. Institutions in a democ-

racy demonstrate, every day, a tolerance for diversity. Institutions in a democracy draw their strength from the diversity of the people who make up those institutions. Institutions in a democracy should be representative of the overall population. I'm here today to highlight the success of one of the institutions of Kosovo. To focus on the fact that within the TMK there are minority representations, so that you can be a role model for the rest of the TMK, and for the population of Kosovo. That the only way you clearly demonstrate to the international community and the world, that you are willing to move down this path of democracy is not by your words or your speeches, but by your actions.

So now we focus on an action within this detachment of RTG-6, the recruitment and acceptance of minorities into this detachment, which has not been easy, nor will it be easy in the future. But it's absolutely necessary if you're going to show any progress at all. The decision is yours, individually and collectively, as to whether or not you will take the difficult steps towards tolerance and democracy. And I appreciate the privilege and the opportunity to share this journey with you."

MP makes new friend, takes KFOR message to airwaves

by Cpl. Taylor Barbaree
Editor

KOSOVSKA
KAMENICA, Kosovo—First Lt. Scott R. Blanchard had no idea that he would be co-hosting a children's radio show during his six-month tour of duty here. But that is exactly what the platoon leader of the 66th MP Co. (Task Force 504th MP) is doing every Friday evening.

"When I began doing this show in December, it was my first attempt at radio so I was kind of nervous," the West Point graduate said before taking to the airwaves on Kosovska Kamenica's 280 watt station, 95.3 FM. "However as the show went along, the more comfortable I became. I think this is a great opportunity for me to share what our mission is here with not only the people, but children."

So, with a large majority of the city's 6,000 population tuning in, Blanchard and host Toni Mailqi, an 11-year-old Kamenica middle school student, begin their 90-minute show entitled "Children's Island" at 6 p.m. The show's format consists of hip-hop music being played in between segments of Toni asking Blanchard questions about the 66th MP Co.'s and KFOR's presence in his hometown.

"The purpose of the show is for kids to be entertained and have an opportunity to call in with questions for



Sgt. Jamie Brown/photo

Eleven-year-old Toni Mailqi and 1st Lt. Scott Blanchard, 1st Platoon, 66th MP Co., sing a variation of the popular Army Cadence "C-130" during Children's Island on Kamenica's 95.3 FM Friday, February 22nd.

my friend," Mailqi said as Blanchard explained how he and Toni met and became instant friends in the UNMIK Café, located in the same building (Kamenica Military Police Sub-Station) as the 66th MP's headquarters.

"He introduced himself and his mother to me and wanted to know about the Army and being a police officer. I was really impressed at the fact that he could speak English (and three other languages) fluently," Blanchard said. "The next day I took him on a tour of our area-of-operations, and I think he

was overwhelmed about how we work together with the many different factions (the 13th Russian TG, UNCIVPOL and KPS).

From that day forward my platoon adopted him as (one of our own) and a friendship was forged."

Toni, who has been doing his own radio show for a number of months prior to meeting Blanchard, said he is glad his Army friend, who he calls Mr. Scott, accepted his invitation to join him on the show.

"The children really enjoy calling in

and asking him questions," Toni said. "I also enjoy learning about what the Army is like."

One of Toni's and the audience's favorite parts of the show is when Blanchard sings Army cadence over the airwaves.

"I think they really get a kick out of me singing cadence," Blanchard said. "I am glad to do it. So far I have sung "C-130" and "Airborne Ranger"; tonight however, we are going to sing a variation of "C-130" together."

Also adding flavor to the show are the prizes that are given away to callers who answer questions about KFOR correctly.

"This show is not only fun, but it is informative to the people of Kamenica," Toni said. "Mr. Scott informs the audience about not playing with weapons and why KFOR is here."

Nearing the end of the show and during one of the breaks, Toni shared his thoughts on the strong bond that has grown since meeting Blanchard.

"I think of him as more like my brother rather than as my friend," Toni said, admitting that he will welcome the new group of soldiers that will take the 66th MP's place in May, but "will never forget Mr. Scott."

Blanchard admitted that it will be hard leaving his new friend when redeploying, but said he hopes the two can stay in touch.

TFF Soldiers seek 'smooth' side at weekly Poetry Night

by Sgt. Jamie Brown
Senior Editor

If you closed your eyes, you might have thought you were somewhere else. As poets shouted, whispered and breathed their words, the beckoning, jazzy sounds of a saxophone cascaded through the room. But this wasn't some hip club in New York; this was poetry night at the Southtown gym on Camp Bondsteel.

Poetry Night, which began on Feb. 12, and will be held every Tuesday from 9-10:30 p.m., was the brainchild of Spc. August Jover, TFF G-3.

"The idea came, just from wanting to do something different, not a party atmosphere, but a relaxing atmosphere," Jover said. "More of a 'home' kind of feeling. You need ways to express yourself, to diffuse, an outlet."

Once the idea was in his head, Jover quickly set out to make it a reality.

"The lady who runs the Southtown gym, Lillian Quehl, we talked to her, and expressed our idea to her," Jover said. "We told her we wanted to do an open-mic poetry night. We told her we wanted to have a jazzy, artistic feeling to it, where someone could come in and just relax and listen to poetry, or get up and recite something that inspired them, or read something they think might inspire someone else. She was ecstatic about it. She told us to come up with the fliers and she would support it."

Jover found a saxophone player, Staff Sgt. John Perdue, Task Force Med Falcon, and a Disc Jockey, Spc. Lance Pettaway,



Sgt. Jamie Brown/photo

Sgt. 1st Class James Richardson, 27th Engineer Bn., reads one of his poems as Staff Sgt. John Perdue, TF Med. Falcon, accompanies on saxophone. The two were among the several soldiers who participated in Poetry Night at the Southtown Gym on Feb. 12.

10th LTF, to help him with the festivities. Then, with help from a few of his friends, Jover distributed fliers all over Bondsteel, and then waited for the big night to arrive.

When it did, Jover wasn't disappointed.

"I was shocked," Jover said. "I was very surprised that we had the kind of turnout that we did. I was expecting a smaller crowd. It was great."

The lights were dimmed, the sounds of Perdue's sax filled the air and the poets expressed themselves through their words. Several of the poets said they were glad to have this opportunity to read their poems in front of an audience.

"It felt good," said Pvt. 2 Rafael Cruz, 10th LTF. "I like reading poetry. I've done it before. I performed at the talent show the other day. It feels good when I go up there,

and do my thing. I feel in touch with myself. Sometimes I write, and sometimes it just comes into my head, but I've been doing it since I was 14."

Sgt. 1st Class James Richardson, A Co. 27th Engineer Bn., has been writing poetry for 25 years, and enjoyed his first time on the stage, even though he had a case of the butterflies.

"I was pretty nervous," he said. "It was my first time, except for reading poetry in front of my family. It was good. People said they enjoyed it."

Even the event's creator, Jover, got into the act, reciting some of his own poetry.

"I'm a poet. This is what I do. I love it. For me to get up there and have a chance to express what I felt when I wrote it, and have people understand and have them tell me that they got something out of it, it's a great feeling."

Jover said the first night was a success, with several poets taking the stage and a small crowd watching the event. He said he hopes that the poetry night will continue to gain support, and that people will keep showing up every Tuesday night. Judging from the reaction of one member of the crowd, the future looks bright.

"I saw some people who read poems at the talent show, and I was pretty impressed," said CW2 Jeff Perrine, a pilot with A Co. 110 Avn. "I thought it'd be good to check it out. It's great. It's kind of different. It's a relaxed atmosphere. They read a piece and then take a music break. 'Smooth' would be the best way to explain it."

TFF Veterans gather to remember those not forgotten

Twenty-five soldiers unite at Camp Bondsteel dining facility to pay tribute to comrades of Vietnam War

by **Spc. Terry Boggs**
Staff Writer

CAMP BONDSTEEL— More than 30 years ago, hundreds of thousands of young men went overseas and fought in the Vietnam War. Many never returned, and some of those who survived came home with permanent scars, both on their bodies and in their hearts. It was a time never to be forgotten.

A group of Vietnam veterans gathered together at the North Dining Facility on Feb. 16, to help insure that the memory of the conflict and the brotherhood created within will continue to live on. About two-dozen men, all Vietnam vets and all serving in KFOR in some capacity, showed up to pay tribute to one another, and to all of those other soldiers who had dutifully served in Vietnam.

There are currently more than 30 Vietnam veterans in KFOR. They serve in many ways, as officers, enlisted men, and civilians. At the head of this esteemed list was Col. Larry Saul, TFF deputy commander for civil military operations. Saul, in addition to being the highest-ranking individual present, was also the person responsible for bringing the meeting together in the first place. Maj. Joseph Willey, who is assigned to TFF HHC but actually works out of USAREUR, was in charge of the details.

"Colonel Saul sat down with me one day," said Willey, "and said 'let's get something together for the Vietnam vets.' We were going to do it on Feb. 12, but the date didn't work out, so we did it today instead.

"The reason we picked the 12th is because the Chinese New Year (or Tet) started on that day," Willey said. "Tet has significance to Vietnam veterans because the North



Col. Larry Saul and Maj. Joseph Willey raise their near-beer bottles in a toast during the recently held Vietnam veterans dinner at Camp Bondsteel's Northtown DFAC.

Spc. Terry Boggs/photo

Vietnamese always mounted large scale attacks on U.S. forces during that time."

Tet, according to Willey, was still going on at the time of the meeting.

The setting was fairly typical of a VIP get together; several tables were placed in the shape of a "U" and approximately 30 chairs were placed around the tables. There was one additional table, however; that is not normally present at most meetings. It was a small, square table, with a single chair, a single place setting, a red rose in a vase, and a black tablecloth on top. It was also empty.

This particular table was in fact not a place to sit; it was a memorial for all of the fallen soldiers that had their lives taken in the Vietnam War.

The gathering began with a prayer and dinner. Then, each person present went around the table and introduced themselves, telling what they did in the war as well as what

they are doing now. A short video was then shown, followed by some words by Colonel Saul. It was a short meeting with long-lasting implications. Not only was it first meeting of its kind to take place in Kosovo, but Saul also mentioned the possibility of getting together on a regular basis.

It sounded like making of a tradition.

The gathering received good marks by those attending, including Bill Filippini, retired soldier.

"Tonight was great," said Filippini, who was assigned to the 4th ID's 119th Aviation during Vietnam and is now a DoD civilian assigned to the ASG at TFF. "A lot of us who spent a number of years in the military have had opportunities to attend Vietnam recognition dinners before, but never this far away from home, and never with this number of people from different walks of life.

Reservists, Guard, civilian and active duty were all here.

This was quite an experience. It was very different, very unique, and to do it in Kosovo is very much of a pleasure."

The camaraderie was still in the air after the meeting was through, even though many of these men had never met before. The thread that held them together in Vietnam apparently was still strong. They were brothers in arms, united by one time in history, now reliving their experiences and sharing a common bond.

As the evening drew to a close, the small group of men went their separate ways. They all took with them their own thoughts, perhaps of past war, perhaps of future dreams. Perhaps a new feeling of oneness with each other that would last for a long time to come.

It was certainly an evening to remember.



Spc. Bill Putnam/photo

Infantrymen from Company B, 2nd Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment (Task Force 2nd of the 14th Infantry) clear away barbed wire from a lot at the end of Roma Alley in Gjilane. The infantryman completed phase one of a three-part project to turn the trash-covered lot into a playground.

by **Spc. Bill Putnam**
Staff Writer

GJILAN/GNJILANE, Kosovo— Members of 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment (TF 1-30) found some

Monteith infantry elements begin playground cleaning project

unusual items here recently while conducting a clean-up project to prepare a lot for a future playground.

The lot is at the end of Roma Alley in the Roma community here. To protect the small minority community, Hesco Barriers, easy-to-build wire cages filled with sandbags and other assorted items used for protection, were emplaced and concertina wire was strung up in the lot three years ago.

The infantrymen from Fort Benning, Ga., completed phase one of a three-part project to clean the lot Monday, Feb. 18.

The second phase will be completed by the Kosovo Protection Corps and Task Force 27th Combat Engineer Battalion (Airborne) later this month when they level out the lot. The final phase will be to install a brick wall and playground equipment.

The idea to clean up this lot, and turn it into a playground for the children living near the alley, came up in some meetings with community leaders of this city.

"The original plan (of the barriers) was to protect the Romas, but that turned into more of a hindrance," said 2nd Lt.

Curtis Edwards of Bravo Co., 2nd of the 14th Infantry. The hindrance was from the rusty wire, gradually crumbling barriers, and the slowly accumulating trash, he explained.

"The idea of a park came about at the meetings," Edwards said. "Instead of closing it off, what if it was an open area for kids to enjoy?"

The plan to build the playground is dependent on the permission of the lot's owner. Obtaining that permission may be difficult because he lives in Belgrade, Serbia.

The barriers walled the lot in, with doors leading in and out of the alley. Even with trash slowly filling the lot, children still played in the dangerous environment.

Trash was spread throughout the entire lot, in and amongst the barriers and crumpled wire. One soldier found an old boot, and another found a tennis shoe.

Toward the end of the cleanup, as the last barriers were taken apart, a soldier found something surprising.

"Hey, Top, check it out," the soldier said as he pulled away trash.

"What the heck did they put in there, a washing machine?" asked 1st Sgt. David Martel, the first sergeant for Bravo Co., 2nd of the 14th Infantry.

Indeed it was a washing machine that engineers used as filler when they built the barrier three years ago.

Where would we be? ...

Black History Month program celebrates past achievements

by Spc. Terry Boggs
Staff Writer

CAMP BONDSTEEL—Throughout United States history, African Americans have suffered through painfully hard times and many intense tragedies. In memory of that catastrophic era and in honor of the pioneers of the black community, Black History Month was celebrated throughout Task Force Falcon during the month of February.

The "roots" of Black History Month can be traced all the way back to 1926. Historian Carter G. Woodson established "Negro History Week" on Feb. 19 of that year, and it was later changed to Black History Month, which we celebrate today.

The soldiers of KFOR had an opportunity to have a celebration of their own, as people gathered together at the North Chapel on Feb. 18, almost 72 years to the date later.

"Black history is American history," said Capt. Randall Thomas, 2-14 Chaplain, in an eloquent and lively speech given during the presentation. Other tributes to blacks in history included a reading of a poem by Spc. Myra Bush on black inventors, and a



Spc. Terry Boggs/photo

The Camp Monteith Choir appeared at the Camp Bondsteel Northtown Chapel to sing during a service designed to help celebrate Black History Month.

song by Sgt. 1st Class Nathaniel Ware. A slideshow by Sgt. 1st Class Charles Willis and music by the Camp Monteith choir was also on the agenda for the afternoon.

Sgt. 1st Class Frank Tokar, TFF Equal Opportunity Advisor, was the mastermind behind the whole afternoon's events.

"The program itself (the actual events) were my idea," said Tokar. "The event itself (Black History Month) is something the Department of Defense recognizes. It's Army wide.

"My goal today is to try to educate different people on contributions that African Americans have made, and to bring about cultural awareness of their contributions."

The list of these contributions was long and impressive. Inventions such as the elevator, lawn sprinkler, heater, air conditioner, and even the refrigerator have their origins with black inventors. Not to mention the many civil rights activists, athletes, etc. that have helped

shape and mold our society. People like Martin Luther King Jr. and Rosa Parks were pioneers for the cause of the American black person, and they were both among the honorees of the day.

The program was comprehensive and covered many aspects of American black history. It also left a good impression on some of the people present; people such as Staff Sgt. Laverne Webb, HHC TFF G-4 Supply and Services, out of Fort Drum, New York.

"It was great," said Webb. "I'm glad we could come out and participate. I was very impressed, particularly with the slide show. I thought it was

informative and I like that the soldiers can come out and see their past history. It was a deeply moving experience for me."

The faces of the soldiers in attendance seemed to echo Webb's sentiments as the presentation wrapped up with music from the Camp Monteith choir and some closing remarks.

All in all it was an eye-opening experience that gave proper tribute to black people in American History.

It also helped answer the question of "where would we be without black people in our history?"

The answer: most likely nowhere near where we are today.

Steadfast support soldiers synchronize Serb shopping

by Spc. Molly Jones
Staff Writer

CAMP MONTEITH—The soldiers of HHC, 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment (Fort Benning, Ga.) begin their long day around 5:30 a.m., hoping the weather won't cause them to cancel their Serb shopping trip once again.

Three squads in the Support Platoon each take turns at Serb shopping by rotating weekly. Each week the squad is scheduled to go out three days, if the weather doesn't cause them to cancel the trip all together.

"The weather for the past month or so has really been interfering in our trips," said Staff Sgt. Phillip Lee, Ammo

NCOIC, HHC, 1-30th. "First the snow was so bad we just couldn't get the buses up to the towns. Now the ice and fog are keeping us from moving out on time."

A usual Serb shopping day will

consist of the soldiers meeting at 5:30 a.m. when the decision will be made about movement, depending on the weather. Once they decide to go, they will prepare the vehicles, and link up with their drivers for the United Nations buses that do the actual transporting of the



Spc. Molly Jones/photo

Soldiers of the Support Platoon, part of HHC, TF 1-30, count and watch as the passengers board the United Nations bus to safely go shopping in downtown Gjiłane.

Serbians.

The first stop they make to pick up shoppers is at 8 a.m. The soldiers will escort the UN buses from each of the six towns they collect Serbians from in the morning, and drop them off in Gjiłane to shop for the day.

Soldiers from B Co., 2nd Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment are on patrol downtown monitoring the shopping. "There are just so many people involved in the whole program, but we are basically in charge of the transporting," said Lee.

Once the first group of shoppers is dropped off, Lee and the rest of his squad move out to the other five towns on their list to pick up more people.

The last call for shoppers to be back on the bus before it leaves is 3:00 that afternoon. The squad escorts the buses back to all of the villages, letting the satisfied shoppers exit with their packages.

On an average day, Lee will encounter 90-150 passengers on the UN buses. Also, he looks forward to the many children who remember him and know him by name. "It's exciting. We have a really good time, because at every stop the kids run up to us and just brighten our day."

The Best of Combat Camera:

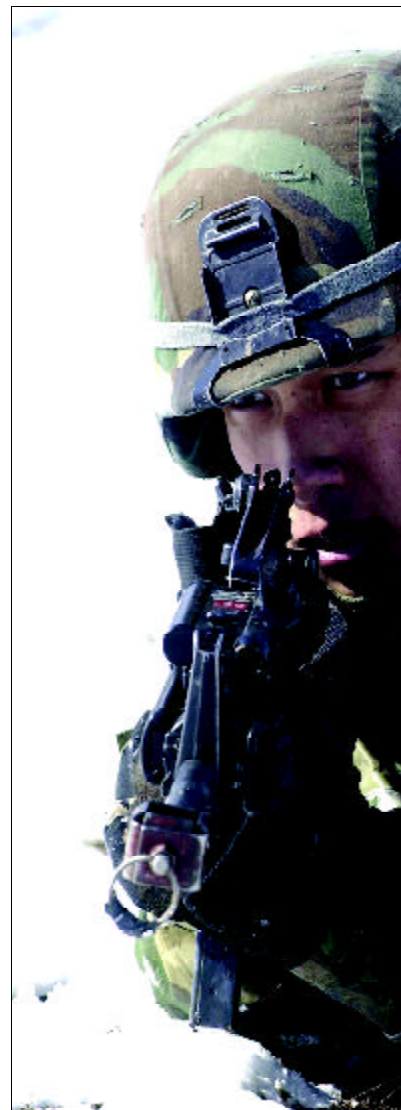
This is a regular section of the Falcon Flier which features some of the best work of Combat Camera.

Special thanks to Combat Camera (55th Signal Company, Fort Meade, Md.) for submitting these photos.



Pfc. Kelly Burkhardt/photo

A member of the Kosovo TMK helps an injured soldier during a mock exercise at the Search and Rescue Land Navigation Course near Kamenica, Kosovo on Feb. 20, 2002. The TMK soldiers are being evaluated by the soldiers of the U.S. Army.



Pfc. David Ngo, Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 32nd Inf live fire at Range 8, Kosovo February 25th.



Spc. Robin Quander/photo

Charlie Company, 1-32 Infantry Battalion, prepares for night time live fire at Range 8, Kosovo on 25 February 2002.



Local dancers perform in a concert in the city of Farazai, Kosovo on F leaders, showcases local bands, singers and dancers.



Spc. Robin Quander/photo
tation, 32nd Infantry Regiment, prepares for night time



Spc. Robin Quander/photo

Local dancers perform in a concert in the city of Farazai, Kosovo on February 17th. The concert, hosted by several community leaders, showcases local bands, singers and dancers.



Sgt. Shama Parker/photo

The squad leader Sgt. Raymond Waldorf directs Spc. Justin Kanger where to plow the site to prepare for gravel to be put down in Drakjovce, Kosovo on February 18th. The soldiers, both from Charlie Company, 27th Engineer Battalion, are preparing the site for Brown and Root workers to come in and set up containers to be used as office space for the city municipality.



Spc. Robin Quander/photo

ai, Kosovo on February 17th. The concert, hosted by several community



Pfc. Kelly Burkhardt/photo

Members of the Kosovo TMK walk through a field during a Search and Rescue Land Navigation Course near Kamenica, Kosovo on February 20th. The TMK members are being evaluated by the soldiers of the U.S. Army.

Commanding General conducts sensing sessions with soldiers at Bondsteel

Special to the Falcon Flier

In early February, Brig. Gen. Keith M. Huber, TFF commander, conducted sensing sessions with soldiers at Camp Bondsteel. The sensing sessions consisted of four separate groups: Group One consisted of 17 male and female soldiers in the ranks of E-1 through E-4; Group Two consisted of 17 male and female NCOs; Group Three consisted of 11 female soldiers in a variety of ranks; Group Four consisted of 18 male and female officers. Each soldier submitted questions for the Commanding General to address at each of the sessions. The questions provided by soldiers were grouped into four categories: mission related, task force specific, quality of life, and general subject questions. Listed in this article are questions that the soldiers submitted and the responses of Brig. Gen. Huber. Some of the responses include additional information identified after the sensing sessions.

MISSION QUESTIONS:

What is the future outlook for U.S. involvement in the Balkans? How much longer do you see the U.S. military in this country?

—Kosovo is an important and critical mission. The U.S. involvement will continue and remain for a number of years, but don't know exactly how long. The presence of U.S. soldiers in the Balkans is significant. The U.S. involvement is essential in this NATO mission. The international community relies on the U.S. presence.

What are we doing to help Kosovo's economy?

—Out of the 6,700 employees hired, over 4,000 local nationals are hired by the United States. In addition to hiring local nationals, we are helping to provide an environment that will help the people of Kosovo build an infrastructure.

Do you see the situation in Kosovo getting better or worse?

—Definitely better with time. A measurement of success is the U.S. presence decreasing overseas while the host nation begins executing some of the tasks of U.S. soldiers.

Can you tell us the future of CAS?

—Believe we will see a reduction at CAS. However, don't see CAS closing because of the importance of mission requirements in that area.

Do you think Kosovo will become a yearlong tour like Korea?

—Brig. Gen. Huber has asked this question of senior leaders and the response has continuously been no.

What are the long-term goals for the Task Force?

—Establish an environment that is safe and secure and will allow an equal opportunity government. This will take some time to develop in Kosovo. A goal for all soldiers of the task force is to increase their situational awareness each and every day. This deployment provides many opportunities for self-improvement both physically and mentally. Get to know your soldiers and build cohesion among each other and within the unit.

Are we going to deploy again when we get back to Ft Drum?

—Don't know. Don't know where the War on Terrorism is headed. It is moving faster than anyone thought. This war is serious business and soldiers need to be prepared to sacrifice everything for the future of the children of the world. And if a soldier is not willing to do that, they need to think of departing the Army, and that is okay. You have served your country honorably. As long as the people of the U.S. are serious and support this war, it could go on for a while. The President during his State of the Union Address identified three countries by name – Iran, Iraq, and North Korea.

Is there a follow-on mission for Task Force

Sam's got it, you need it, go get it!



Cpl. Taylor Barbaree/photo

Spc. Joseph Yake, of TFF's JIC, watches as Pfc. Tiffanie Tribble, TFF legal assistant, prepares his taxes.

by Pfc. Tiffanie Tribble TFF Legal Office

Hypothetical situation: you owe money to a guy named Sam. Because you are honest, hardworking; but let's be realistic—underpaid, you pay Sam off with installments that come directly out of your paycheck each month. At the end of the year, you examine your records

to discover that you've overpaid Sam, hundreds or maybe even thousands of dollars. Sam agrees to refund your money. How long would it take you to claim this money? If you asked me, I'd be over to collect my money ASAP!

Why, is it better to file your taxes sooner than later? By now the answer should be evident. Why let Uncle Sam hold on to your money any longer? Is your money gaining

any interest in Uncle Sam's account? This money could be working for you in so many other ways. How much money am I talking about? The average single taxpaying-soldier filing a 1040EZ, receives a refund of about \$750.

That money can accompany you to FMPP, or it can be saved or invested towards short or long term goals. Let your hard earned tax refund work for you; Perhaps you are ready to start investing in the Thrift Savings Plan, a savings account, an IRA or one of the wide varieties of money market funds that offer interest free from federal or state tax, or both!

The (Camp Bondsteel) Legal Assistance Office, Bldg 1340A, in "admin alley" is preparing and electronically filing taxes until April 15th. You can have your money back in as little as 2 weeks! This leaves no excuse to let Uncle Sam hold on to your monies any longer. Clients are seen by appointment only. Please call 781-4692, our appointment line and speak to the most tax-savvy certified preparers on Bondsteel.

Falcon?

—TFF is the Kosovo force; their mission is critical and will continue here.

Will PCSing soldiers remain in place if the Task Force has a follow-on mission?

—Except for Aviators and Special Forces soldiers, PCSs and ETSs are still on track and soldiers will depart as scheduled. Additional MOSs may be included in the current stop loss program. On 8 FEB 02, the following were added to the stop loss program. Commissioned officers in the branches of MP/MI/Comptroller/FAOs (for Europe/Mid East/Africa); Warrant officer pilots/CID and MI specialties. Enlisted soldiers include Intel, Automation, Riggers, MPs, CID, and MI.

What do you see the role for National Guard and Reserve units in future peacekeeping missions?

—Admiration and respect for National Guard and Reserve soldiers. View all soldiers in the total team concept. RES/NG soldiers have skills and more experience/deployments than some Active Duty soldiers in certain areas. Don't know how a RES/NG soldier juggles two different jobs (civilian and military), yet we expect when they are called on Active Duty to perform to standard just like the Active Force.

Is it possible to cross train with other NATO forces while we are here?

—We have executed limited partnership training events with other countries such as ranges, Schutzen Schmur, EOD missions, and sporting events. Units have coordinated these events with other countries. When you look at our troop to task list, we don't have a lot of "extra" soldiers in the Task Force. We need to focus on our mission here.

Are VIP missions more important than operational missions for aircraft?

—Visitors are important. Visitors receive a better appreciation of our mission and how well our soldiers execute it. Visitors help us educate the American public and it also lets soldiers know that they are appreciated. Consider visitors as our Operational Mission.

Why are senior leaders in the Task Force going to dangerous/hot spots in Kosovo?

—Senior leaders may be able to calm a tense situation by their presence. Need to be able to look the local authorities in the eyes. Need to be

where the soldiers are.

What is the KFOR role with the TMK?

—Provide the TMK realistic training and employment in line with disaster relief, search and rescue, and humanitarian assistance. We are not training the future Army of Kosovo.

Task Force Falcon conducts partnership training with the TMK Regional Task Group 6 (RTG 6) and the TMK Engineer group in order to ensure compliance and facilitate the TMK's development into a professional, disciplined, multi-ethnic organization representing and serving all the elements of Kosovo.

Do you foresee the border between Kosovo and Macedonia closing before the end of our rotation?

—Don't think it will close, but the border does close down temporarily at times. Additionally there are border boundary changes that do occur.

Why are there different uniform rules for units such as SOCCE and PSYOP when outside the wire?

—BG Huber signed an exception to policy memorandum of understanding for these soldiers and organizations.

Any way to improve reliable communications throughout our sector of operations?

—Options are being explored. Currently limited communication assets (MSE, Motorola Radios) in our area. The commercial backbone is not fully implemented in Kosovo at this time.

TASK FORCE FALCON QUESTIONS:
Why are we not allowed to go off post in Kosovo?

—Looking into this. However these will be organized events and not one or two soldiers going out the gate to get a coffee downtown. Kosovo is a dangerous place. As an American soldier you are a high payoff target. There are people out there who would try to injure or kidnap an American soldier to make a political statement or to sell to some terrorist organization. When a U.S. soldier is injured or killed, that is worldwide news and can change U.S. policy and public opinion. Remember how fast National Policy changed when one dead American soldier was dragged and brutalized naked through the streets of Somalia? The trafficking and selling of humans in Kosovo is big and dangerous business. You must constantly analyze the threat and maintain

your situational awareness. However, this does not mean you should not experience the local culture of Kosovo if possible. MWR shopping trips are just one example.

Why are we not allowed to go to Italy or Germany on our 4-day pass?

—Transportation is a challenge. While it may be easy to catch a flight out of Kosovo, channel flights back to Kosovo have proven challenging. Cannot afford to have soldiers sitting in terminals attempting to catch a channel flight. We have a mission to execute in Kosovo, and did not deploy here to tour Europe.

Why can't we participate in the FMPP more than once?

—FMPP is a privilege and not a right. 150 soldiers authorized per trip (2 per week = 300 soldiers a week). 3B's program started on 24 December and will continue until 13 May = 44 rotations to Bulgaria for a total of 6,556 slots available (we have 5,475 service members in country). Slots are distributed by G3 and managed by units.

Why can't we wear civilian clothes on Friday nights, and can we extend the hours on Saturday night until 2 a.m.?

—The CG has authorized soldiers to wear civilian clothes on Saturday nights 1800-0200 beginning on 9 February. Important to understand that civilian clothes change the mindset of soldiers. Soldiers act differently in civilian clothes because they feel different. Need to remember we are deployed in a combat zone and are receiving hazardous duty pay and combat zone tax exclusions. Any decisions made by the CG regarding soldiers are discussed with Command Sgt. Maj. (Ted) Walker, TFF Command Sergeant Major.

Why are the visitation hours for the barracks geared toward people who work during the day, when there are rooms with all night shift workers?

—Policy Letter #3 (5 JAN 02) states personnel may have guests in their rooms from 0800-2200 hours Sun-Thurs and 0800-2400 Fri-Sat. These hours accommodate both day and night shifts. There are also a number of locations to spend time with friends: Gym, MWR, Red Cross, 24-hour sandwich bar.

(Please see SENSING SESSIONS, page 11)

(SENSING SESSIONS continued from page 10)

Why is there not a system in place to promote soldiers attached to the Task Force?

—Soldiers who are attached to units receive their allocations for waivers (E1-E4) from the unit they are assigned to (not attached). Installations and units receive authorizations for waivers from DA. This is not a Task Force policy, but applied across the Army.

Why is the Task Force not wearing the Black Beret as part of the uniform?

—The patrol cap is worn with the BDU in field environments; on deployments when the Kevlar helmet is not worn; or when the commander determines conditions are unsuitable for wear of the beret. We will not wear the beret in Kosovo.

Why is it necessary to carry weapons on camps?

—Carrying weapons is a threat deterrent, an enemy will think long before attacking a hard target. American soldiers are high payoff targets. Kosovo is a dangerous place and that is why we are still receiving hazardous fire pay and tax exclusion benefits.

Why can't we drink alcohol when other countries are permitted?

—BG Huber does not have the authority to allow soldiers to drink alcohol in Kosovo or Macedonia.

Why are there different standards or the standards change for entry into the base camps? (i.e. two forms of ID are required to enter Camp Monteith and KFOR badges are worn out at Camp Monteith).

—Occasionally different camps will change procedures for badges. This is related to anti-terrorism and force protection prevention.

Why aren't dispatches checked prior to departure from each base camp for all military vehicles?—Should be. CofS was checking dispatches at the gate one night at 2 am and found dispatches that were no longer valid. Driving in Kosovo is dangerous with the roads, weather, and the local national drivers.

What happened to 1 (whole) day off every other week and a half day off a week? Was this something that looked good on paper or do units and sections regulate it?

—Units and sections manage the time off of their personnel. The CG does not mandate work schedules. We are working long hours. Talking with soldiers, most seem to be receiving some time off each week.

Is it possible to expand the shuttle service between the camps on frequency and locations?

—Currently bus shuttles depart CBS to CAS at 0700, and to Monteith at 0430/1700/2200.

Air shuttles depart M/W/F from CBS at 0800/0840/0940/1300/1340/1440 (weather dependent) to numerous locations.

Should there be a standard for KFOR badge holders?

Soldiers place all sorts of items (coins, flags, etc) in these holders.

—Not a current standard, however KFOR badges should not be obstructed by coins, flags, etc. Units are responsible for enforcing.

Why are we in full battle gear when we depart our camps when other nation's soldiers are not?

—The CG hears a lot of discussion from other nations on why U.S. soldiers are in full battle gear and other nations are not. Kosovo is a dangerous place and he will not take the chance of a U.S. soldier being hurt because they are in soft cap and without body armor. Life is very precious and uncertain. When you see soldiers in the same uniform it is a visual deterrent. When they are all in full battle gear it states that these soldiers are serious and have the discipline to execute their missions – with force if required.

LIFESUPPORT QUESTIONS:

Is it possible to get Powerade or some other sports drink in the DFAC?

—Not at this time. Those drinks are very expensive. Spent \$140,000 on soda last month. USAREUR and Fort Drum currently do not provide these items in DFACs. PX stocks Gatorade products. The DFACs and the facilities here are the best the CG has ever seen on a deployment. Soldiers deserve the good quality of life here, because one day they may be called upon to deploy to an area and live in fighting positions or tents, and soldiers will execute.

In the future would it be possible to build an indoor running track? How about a swimming pool?

—TFF has no money for "new work" at this time, which is anything that is not part of B&R's recurring contracts (building shelves, signs, Seahuts, building partitions).

—FY 02 budget expecting a cut of \$308 million or 21 percent from FY 01 budget.

—USAREUR priority for new work: 1) Force Protection; 2) Safety; 3) Health;

4) Operational; 5) Quality of Life. Don't expect a pool, indoor track or a golf driving range while you are here. We have the facilities we need here already.

Why doesn't the theatre play movies during the day for night shift personnel?

—Due to the light during the day, cannot see the movies on

the screen. MWR (North and South) have movie rooms and videos available. Movies are available at the Red Cross. Movies are a good way to relax and release some stress.

Why doesn't the PX stock a larger variety/sizes of uniforms in the PX?

—Had a problem with Med-Reg size earlier in the rotation, but AAFES now stocks all sizes of uniforms. Gray PT uniforms are difficult to stock in certain sizes (worldwide issue) as a result of the new PT uniforms. AAFES orders and stocks different uniform sizes and items. They forecast sizes based on what sells the most. If a size or item is not in stock, a soldier can order that item through AAFES.

We have phone jacks in our rooms, why can't we get them turned on? —Not physically possible, there is limited bandwidth and additional telephone trunks are not available. Currently have camps in our sector that we cannot send a digital order to because of the limited communication assets and the lack of bandwidth. These camps don't have phones to make moral calls, or Internet access to check mail. When these soldiers rotate into larger camps, they are then able to make calls and check and send email.

The attitude of the women at the laundry facility needs to improve towards female customers.—Customer service cards available in the facility for patrons to fill out if there is an issue.

—B&R has looked into this issue and some female employees have been replaced. B&R is in the business of taking care of customers and making money.

Is it possible for MWR to sponsor female team sports programs? Everything seems geared towards the male soldiers.

—MWR sports are coed based. As a result of previous attempts in other rotations, there was not enough participation to continue a female only sports program. However, need to watch sports injuries. We have had some serious ones here already. If a soldier is injured and cannot execute their mission, don't need them here in Kosovo and will ship them back home. If sports related injuries increase, may ban some of the sports programs. Don't want to do that because sports programs are a great way to build cohesion and a great way to relieve stress.

Why don't we have an OB/GYN doctor on Camp Bondsteel?

—A female soldier who requires routine OB/GYN care will be seen by a physician at the Camp Bondsteel Hospital. If the soldier requires OB/GYN care other than routine, the physician will consult with the Landstuhl Army Medical Center OB/GYN. The Patient Administration Division (PAD) will then establish the appointment for the soldier to fly to Germany. These appointments are not for routine/annual PAP smears. Task Force Falcon does not have the patient load to have a full time OB/GYN doctor or to bring an OB/GYN physician down to Kosovo once a month.

Why does the entertainment seemed geared toward the male soldiers? Why don't we get entertainers catering to females?

—MWR has presented 15 events since 21 Nov 01. Task Force Male/Female Ratio: 94 percent male, 6 percent female. MWR attempts to obtain as many events as possible within the limits of their budget. Their goal is to provide two non-celebrity acts every 30 days, and one celebrity act a quarter. Types of acts chosen are based on three factors: attendance at events, budget, and availability and request of an entertainer. Attendance. If a country band continuously brings in more spectators than a gospel group, you will see more country acts than gospel groups. However MWR attempts to alternate groups such as country, gospel, rock and roll, hip-hop, and comedy. MWR collects data and conducts AARs after all events and analyses that data. Budget. MWR does operate off a budget. All shows sponsored by MWR have associated costs. In the case of USO shows, the star entertainer may waive their appearance fee, but money is still spent on transportation, food, hotels, etc. Availability of Entertainers. The USO and DOD both have offices in Washington D.C. who solicit entertainment for the Armed Forces. Once they identify entertainers who are available for shows, USAREUR MWR is contacted and the coordination begins. Some performers request specific visits. Example, Arnold Schwarzenegger requested to go to Bosnia. USAREUR MWR would have preferred that he come to Kosovo because of the larger troop population, but the entertainer requested that specific location.

The Task Force IG asked the specific question of the USAREUR MWR entertainment coordinator if entertainment is based on male/female ration. The response was no. The question was asked if a show such as Chippendales was a possibility. MWR stated no, since the intent of this type of group is a strip show. Even though cheerleaders may have skimpy outfits, their intent is not to strip. There are not very many touring acts available, which cater to just female patrons. USAREUR MWR also stated that if soldiers ask for specific acts, they will pursue those requests, but nothing is guaranteed.

Why does mail sometimes take 30 days to arrive?

—Limited flights and amount of mail that can be transported. SAM mail will wait for space available. Priority/First Class will go first. Mail is transported by ground from Germany to Kosovo.

Weather, road conditions, vehicle mechanical problems, borders, can all hinder movement. World events: War in Afghanistan and the ANTHRAX scare has slowed down the process. Mail delivery time since the holidays has improved.

Why is there not housing for married couples who are deployed to Kosovo?

—Currently 42 percent of the Task Force is married. Nineteen couples have both spouses deployed in Kosovo (2 couples are ASG civilians). Don't feel it is appropriate, not a consistent standard for all soldiers who are married. Can't justify when forward deployed in a hazardous duty area. There is not a DOD policy that identifies housing for deployed married couples.

Can a larger PX be built on the North Side of CBS?

—Larger PX currently being built on the South side with an estimated completion date of 1 April.

Why can't units reserve the gyms for sporting events?

—Units need to submit a request in writing to MWR, signed by the first sergeant or higher 72 hours in advance, stating the purpose and the number of soldiers participating. Availability will then be determined. The intent is to reserve the gym for significant numbers of soldiers and not for small numbers. This is due to the number of facilities available and the troop population. Previously MWR let any size group reserve a gym, but it did not make sense to remove 30 soldiers who were utilizing the gym, for a group of 5-6 soldiers who reserved the facility.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS:

Are we going to be able to exchange boots and uniforms when we get back to Fort Drum?

—As of 5 OCT 01, the uniform exchange program was reinstated in the Balkans on a limited basis for a two-year period. The program had been cancelled because of the cost associated and individuals abusing the program. Procedure currently exists to exchange Clothing Bag Items (CBI) for soldiers who routinely work in harsh conditions while patrolling or performing duties at observation posts, forward operating bases and other locations outside of base camps. Soldiers must be deployed in country for a minimum of 90 days, then are eligible to exchange up to two sets of unserviceable BDUs. Combat boot are no longer included in the program. A Colonel in the chain of command will approve all CBI exchanges. All CBI exchanges will be conducted prior to a soldier's redeployment and is not applicable to soldiers who have redeployed.

Why are some soldiers allowed to wear soft caps while driving tactical vehicles on CBS? —Standard is KEVLAR while driving in tactical vehicles. Soldiers should make on the spot corrections.

Not as many opportunities to gain promotion points while deployed, why can't points be added for the reason of deployment?

—The following are opportunities for soldiers to receive promotion points while deployed in Kosovo: Civilian Education; Soldier Boards; Ranges; PT scores, Correspondence Courses; Duty Performance Points; and Awards and Medals – receive the Kosovo Campaign Medal and the NATO Medal for Kosovo Operations while deployed here for more than 30 days. Except for attending military schools, this deployment offers just as many opportunities for promotion points in addition to the two medals you will receive.

Is there anything that can be done for soldiers who are ETSing and would like to ACAP?

—G1 currently reviewing options. Input from the Task Force indicates approximately 65 soldiers have not received their pre-separation ACAP briefing/counseling. These are soldiers that will ETS within 90 days of the 3B/4A TOA. 23 JAN 02, G1 submitted a request to 1st PERSCOM requesting that an ACAP career counselor come to Kosovo to conduct the pre-separation briefing/counseling, and is still waiting on a response.

Why do soldiers have to stand outside at the gates during harsh weather when there are no vehicles to be examined? —Force Protection, a show of force, a visual deterrent. An enemy will think long before attacking a hard target. 8-10 guards on shift at all times. Half are required to be outside of the guard shacks at all times. COR rotates soldiers in and out of guard shack as necessary. Can occur every minute, every five minutes, ten minutes, etc.

Why are soldiers allowed to deploy within six months of returning from a hardship tour? —A 26 Sept. 01 XVIII Airborne Corps Memorandum for Contingency Deployment Operations states that if a soldier is deployed 61 or more days, the soldier will be stabilized 4 months from the date of redeployment. If a soldier is deployed 140 days or more, the soldier is not eligible for a with dependent OCONUS tour (Long Tour) until 6 months from the date of redeployment or a dependent restricted tour (Short Tour) until 12 months from the date of redeployment.

Do soldiers receive a short tour credit for the Kosovo deployment? —Soldiers deployed TDY or TCS for 9 continuous months or 11 cumulative months in a 24-month period in Europe's Central region will be awarded short tour credit. The time deployed in Kosovo by itself, is not enough time to receive credit for a short tour.

Deployable Operations Group brings training to Kosovo

by Sgt. Jamie Brown
Senior Editor

CAMP BONDSTEEL—They say you can't teach an old dog, new tricks. But can an old dog teach new tricks? If that DOG is in Kosovo it can. The 7th Army Training Command's (ATC) Deployed Operations Group (DOG) helps train the soldiers of Task Force Falcon.

"What we do here, is provide training for all the task force soldiers," said Mr. Clarence Morton, task force training support (deployable) operations manager, 7th Army Training Command, USAREUR, based out of Grafenwoer, Germany. The four D.O.D. civilians and one contractor who work with the 7th ATC, here, provide the soldiers of TFF with several different training opportunities.

"We have a Training Support Center, TSC, a Small Arms Virtual Trainer, SAVT, and a Distance Learning Center, DLC," said Morton. "We offer various military classes via satellite."

These classes give soldiers the opportunity for self-development while deployed here.

"We have a class going on now, LOG 73, it's a supply class," Morton said. "They can get that class here, just like they're getting it in the states, and it's good for promotion points. They're through the military system. We get all our classes from Germany, from Germany, they get their classes from the states, and they send them through the satellite system. Today we have a LOG 73 class; it's going to be for a week. It's a supply class, where all the units, E-1 up through Captain can attend. Tomorrow, which is Feb. 5, we start a course called SAM 31, that's a small arms maintenance course, for unit armorers. We have to schedule them. We teach approximately six classes per rotation, or more, it depends on what the task force wants."

To determine what courses the task force wants, the 7th ATC works closely with the G-3 section and Capt. Eileen Jenkins, G-3 training officer.

"G3 works closely with 7th Army Training Command's (ATC) Deployed Operations Group (DOG) and Directorate of Training (DOT) to develop training plans for deployed forces in Kosovo," Jenkins said. "7 ATC DOT provided us with a template of schools they planned on offering during our rotation. We adjusted that template to meet the needs of Task Force Falcon units."

The 7th ATC offers more than just classroom training. In addition to running TFF's 14 live-fire ranges, there is also a SAVT (Small Arms Virtual Trainer) available to soldiers.

"It's just like the real thing," Morton said. "The only



Sgt. Jamie Brown/photo

Spc. Richard Maldonado, left, a forward observer with the 3-6 Field Artillery points out a target to Sgt. Stephen Pellerin, who is training to become a forward observer. With help from the 7th ATC's Deployed Operations Group, members of the 3-6 practiced calling for fire and adjusting for fire on a training simulator.

difference is we're not shooting downrange. We had a first sergeant come in just the other day; he took his whole company through there. Ninety percent of his company qualified when they went from the SAVT, to the live range. They did really well, and he's talking about coming back."

According to those who supervise the training, opportunities like these are an important, especially during a deployment.

"I think these soldiers are getting good training," Morton said. "When we came back from Saudi Arabia (Desert Shield/Storm) they came up with the concept that soldiers need to be trained, even though they are deployed. So my boss Mr. Woods, chief-DOG, came up with the idea, that we could get soldiers trained as they're deployed. They found out when we were in Saudi Arabia, when we first got there we knew we had to fight, and then we didn't fight for a few months, so the training went down. And when they got back to home station, they found out they were below their training levels. So he came up with a way that we could have soldiers train in a deployable area, and it's been working pretty good."

"The operational tempo that we face in today's Army requires that soldiers and units continually train to maintain

combat readiness," Jenkins said. "The training support system in Kosovo is continually improving. Our goal is to provide the best training support possible so that TF Falcon soldiers can maintain their war-fighting skills."

The members of the DOG stress that everything they do is done out of concern for the soldiers.

"I enjoy working with the soldiers," said Mr. Mike Clements, a D.O.D. civilian with the 7th ATC, and former Infantry and Special Forces soldier. "Everything down here is working with the soldiers. Whether it's working here with the distance learning, or working over in the SAVT, it's just working with the soldiers, supporting them."

"I love dealing with soldiers," said Morton, who is retired from active duty, and is currently a Staff Sergeant in the Army Reserve. "I'm going to be a soldier the rest of my life. I like helping soldiers, because I remember when I was a young private, I always wanted someone to be there for me. I love my job, and I love being with soldiers, so I try to make every soldier as happy as they can be."

Editors note: For more information on the services the 7th ATC offers, contact Mr. Clarence Morton by phone at 3631, 3632 or 3633.

TF Dragon helps bring warm winter gear to schoolchildren

by Capt. Brandon Richardson
Task Force Dragon

On a typical wet, chilly day in Kosovo, Task Force Dragon soldiers trekked to the small town of Daganaj to visit the 'Ali Asllani' School. TF Dragon soldiers sponsor the local Kosovar School to improve the buildings and help return the school to its pre-war condition. Ali Asllani is a small school that teaches more than 450 students. Due to overcrowding, the school day has been divided with the older children (fifth-eighth grade) attending the morning session and the younger children (first-fourth grade) attending the afternoon session. The same teachers educate all of the children, and the village mayor is also a teacher in the school. Unlike the typical American school, there was no playground or playground equipment prior to KFOR soldier sponsorship. The children do not have access to Audio/Visual equipment other than homemade posters and a chalkboard. Wood stoves heat the school in the winter, and in the warmer months there is no air cooler other than an open window. There is an outdoor bathroom with primitive facilities at best. In the past three months, TF Dragon has learned much about life in Kosovo while completing several projects with Ali Asllani School. Today's projects included handing out hats and mittens donated by Land's



Contributed/photo

Children of the Ali Asllani school show off their new hats and mittens. These gifts from Lands End, INC. were handed out by members of TF Dragon.

End, INC., completing a final inspection of the basketball hoop the soldiers made and donated to the school, and having a masonry expert from the 27th Combat Engineers (Fort Bragg, N.C.) evaluate the school for future work.

The past three months have been a learning experi-

ence for the TF soldiers, when it comes to sponsoring a local school. A lack of funding has caused the TF to search for alternate means of getting work done on the school building. With the help of the 27th Engineers, TF Dragon has put up a basketball hoop for the children. TF Dragon has also included the local KPC (Kosovo Protection Force) unit to assist the school.

A Fort Drum area school has donated six boxes of much needed school supplies. Friends and family of TF Dragon soldiers have sent numerous boxes of warm winter clothing and various school supplies. The Nevada/New Mexico guard unit in TF Dragon has donated pencil cases with erasers, pencils and sharpeners. The amount of support TF Dragon has received from the many home stations is wonderful.

The main focus of today's trip was to evaluate the masonry for needed repairs. The 27th Engineers have joined with TF Dragon to accomplish this goal. The school's exterior is in generally poor condition. It needs new siding for the roof, and the walls have crumbling mortar that needs repair. Without Humanitarian Aid funds, which have been diverted for more emergency need elsewhere, repairs (Please see SCHOOL, page 15)

Greek soldiers proud to be volunteers in Kosovo

by Sgt. Jamie Brown
Senior Editor

CAMP RIGAS
FERAIOS, Kosovo—The Greek military has a proud history that spans back all the way from the roots of Western civilization to the current peace keeping mission in Kosovo. The Greek forces here are proud of the job they are doing, and proud that they have volunteered to be here.

"All of us, we are volunteers here," said Maj. Ioannis Bogdos, S-3 (plans and Operations) Officer for the 501st Mech. Bn., the Greek contingent here in Multinational Brigade (East). "We are very proud of serving in this Multinational peace keeping operation here in Kosovo."

Cpl. Spiridon Chormovitis, an assistant to the S-3, who also has the unique perspective of having lived in the U.S. for 13 years, also agreed that being volunteers makes a big difference.

"It builds a little bit more self confidence, and makes our mission a lot better," Chormovitis said. "We're here in a peace keeping mission, understanding what the problem is here. People want to live in peace. With that in mind, it makes everything we do come from the heart, so to speak."

Bogdos said his unit performs several missions here in Kosovo.

"The mission for my battalion here is to provide a safe and secure environment for our sector," he said. "Our

sector operates within the western part of MNB-East. In our sector is the city of Ferizaj/Urosevac. We also provide security to the Serbs that live in Ferizaj/Urosevac. Also, in my sector there are 12 patrimonial sites (that are guarded by the Greeks). Also we guard the Orthodox Church in downtown Ferizaj/Urosevac, and an Orthodox cemetery in Ferizaj/Urosevac. Every day we conduct patrols in the sector. Also we perform dismounted patrols."



Contributed/photo

A Greek soldier from the 501st Mechanized Battalion guards a patrimonial site in the village of Babljac.

don't change the whole equipment and everything. We change individuals, but the flag stays. We change individuals, but the equipment stays here."

Many of the Greek soldiers in Kosovo are getting their first experience in working with soldiers from other nations, according to Bogdos. He said the opportunity his soldiers have to work with American soldiers has been especially rewarding.

"I believe with this cooperation we have with Americans, we learn from Americans, but also sometimes the Americans learn from us," Bogdos said. "We have a good cooperation. We work together. We conduct many operations like checkpoints, cordon and searches and escorts with the Serbs, together. We enjoy it, and we have a very good relationship."

Although the Greek forces here are exposed to several different nationalities during their tour here, Bogdos said that they do try to maintain some of the touches of home.

Although there are many similarities in the missions the Greek and American forces perform, there are, according to Bogdos, some small differences.

"Our normal rotation for officers and enlisted soldiers is six months here, but we have the right to extend our stay here, and after an application, and if the commander says 'yes' we can stay for another six months," Bogdos said. "Another thing that is different from the U.S. Army that we do here is that we

"We have satellite television, so the soldiers can watch all the Greek television shows," Bogdos said. "At least twice a month we organize a special night for them, and we celebrate. We have Greek musicians, and we sing songs all together, and we eat a common dinner, and we have a lot of fun. So we keep morale at a very high level, but they already have good morale."

Russian LNO discusses his nation's role in MNB (East)

by Cadet Lapin Andrey
Russian LNO

The 13th TG is the part of Russian military contingent here in Kosovo. All the people from 13th TG solve the same problems as others in MNB (E). Our soldiers conduct patrols, they provide security of two orthodox churches, they also escort children to their schools from Kamenica to Serbia. We have four checkpoints and three observation points, and the most difficult one is the 75 CP. Our soldiers and Americans provide control over all cars coming into Kosovo, because it's on the border with Serbia.

I think every soldier should be proud of what he is doing here. And our soldiers are proud of all what they do to establish peace here in Kosovo.

Sometime ago there was an act of violence in Kamenica, one Serb, owner of a shop was killed. 13th TG commander COL Sergey Ziara did everything that he had to do and all guilty people were detained.

Approximately, there are three

Russians, LNO, here at Camp Bondsteel: me, Lt. Col. Vladimir Hromenkov and Capt. Sergey Sarygin.

In our everyday life we work with people from many different military organizations. It gives us an opportunity to solve different problems together, and only such kind of work can help in establishing calm situation in Kosovo.

I think our soldiers will stay here until there is a stable and peaceful situation in each part of Kosovo.

We conduct different types of training to keep our soldiers in form and ready to solve various problems. Once a week each company conducts shooting using Kalashnikov rifle and also other types of armament.

Many our soldiers participated in

different conflicts within Russian Federation, especially in Chechnya. And lots of them have medals for courage and for

their activity during those conflicts.



Cadet Lapin Andrey, Russian LNO

Sgt. Jamie Brown/photo

Civil Affairs orchestrates modular metal office placement

by Staff Sgt. Michael P. McCord
Press Section NCOIC

DRAJKOVCE, Kosovo—In this province where reminders of ethnic hatred and political affiliation are spray-painted on walls, is a community taking steps to rebuild. They're getting back to some semblance of normalcy. The small settlement of Drjakovce has been chosen to host governmental offices. They are designed to integrate both nearby Albanians and the Serbian residents of Stjpe.

This project, in the planning stages for more than a year, is the establishment of municipal satellite offices, which will provide easier access to services for both Serbian and Albanians of these small Kosovar towns. The plan involved units that are quicker to set up than conventional brick and mortar methods.

The offices are actually modular CORIMAC. The large metal modules, are being utilized here as multi-purpose office units. When bolted together, they form a much larger overall space. A great many organizations have worked together to make this project a reality.

A civil affairs team is just one element in the myriad of high stakes players here. Like a conductor keeping his orchestra in queue, the 443rd Civil Affairs Battalion teams, arranged many of the events leading up to the satellite office emplacements. "I like to say that civil affairs doesn't actually do anything, but we make sure it gets done," said Maj. Mark Stainbrook, U.S. Marines, 3rd Civil Affairs Group, Camp Pendleton, Calif. "We do a lot of coordination and facilitation. We coordinated with the 27th Engineer Battalion to come in and level the ground and prep it with gravel. We coordinate with UNMIK to actually buy the gravel and have it brought to the location, and coordinated with the MP's and the Polish Ukrainian Battalion to provide security since it's in a sensitive location. They also had Brown and Root Services provide the large lifting crane to install the containers (modular office). We assisted in a lot of the planning and operations. We don't physically do anything, but we do everything that leads up to its getting done," Stainbrook said.

For a group of people that have gone through many hardships in the past decade, progress is measured in tiny steps.



Sgt. Jamie Brown/photo

Brown and Root employees attach a lifting crane to a modular CORIMAC, to prepare it to be moved.

This is one such step. Even the physical placement of these offices has undergone close political scrutiny from affected parties.

"It's a little bit more political dealing with the government officials," said Sgt. Ryan Powell, 3rd CAG, a civil affairs NCO attached to the 443rd Civil Affairs Battalion. As a U.S. Marines Reservist deployed for six months here, Powell finds similarities with his full time job as a police officer back in Los Angeles. "As compared to being a police officer working the streets of Los Angeles, this job has more political aspects to it, but you have to have diplomacy in both areas of our jobs as a police officer and as a civil affairs member."

Powell's career as a law enforcement officer with the city of Los Angeles for two years gives him insight on what to expect. "Working with the people daily, gaining their trust and respect and trying to offer any assistance we can is similar to what we do back in Los Angeles," he said.

The fact the containers have finally found a home in Drjakovce means all these different parties, with sometimes conflicting ideas on how to get it done, agreed that it must be done. One element was the information being released to the communities.

"Our PYSOP team has been very important in distributing leaflets and talking to people in the area. They explained why the office containers were going in here," said Stainbrook. "Through PYSOP's, we also conducted several radio shows with both myself and Col. Larry Saul, who is our deputy commander for civil military operations. We tried to do an effective information campaign for the last few weeks to get the people to understand the containers (modular office) and what purpose they will serve."

"More than 15 months ago UNMIK realized that the residents of Drjakovce, the Bitina's, Firaja, Brod, and the other villages in the area of vicinity check point 34, needed access to government services," said Col. Larry Saul. "They began with the ambulante, which has been open for some time now, and was contributed by a Polish non-governmental organization. But the satellite office complex brought to the local residents much needed government

services. There was a lot of opposition to the placement of these modular office containers on that site. It was mainly from one or two hard-line radical politicians who were opposed to the provision of government services, particularly to the Albanian residents of the community. It has taken us quite some time to get the modular offices in place, installed, and operational. We began the 18th of February and by Friday the 22nd of February, they were pretty much in place. Now we are waiting for final details to be taken care of.

These satellite municipal offices provide vital government services for the residents of the Drjakovce area. What this does is take away the requirement to have to drive all the way into Stjpe to take care of those day-to-day routine government services. Also, it's immediately next to the Drjakovce ambulante. So they can actually go and get their medical care and take care of other government work at the same time," Saul said.

(HAUL continued from page 1)

Farrell, a truck driver with the 377th Transportation Co., as he navigated his large truck through Pristina on a bright, sunny day. "However, this is an important mission, and I plan on getting this equipment to Waterloo Lines safely."

Along the way, Spc. Donald Meduna, also a truck driver with the 377th, but serving as Farrell's co-pilot during the trip to Waterloo lines, noted the importance of his unit's mission while serving in Kosovo.

"Our mission is important because we provide the necessary support that allows KFOR to keep the peace here,"

he said. "This is a great experience for me personally. One day I can say that I helped move tanks from Slovakia and assisted with making Kosovo a better place."

Upon their successful arrival at Waterloo Lines, there was reason for celebration from both the soldiers of the 377th and Slovakian Army.

"Our goal is to try and do things safe while achieving our main objective," said Staff Sgt. Kermit Joseph, 377th Platoon Sergeant, as he watched the APC's being unloaded at the British staging area. "Today we achieved

the first part of our mission, and it is a rewarding feeling."

First Lt. Michele Pryor, 181st Platoon Leader, concurred.

"This has been a great mission for us. Missions with other countries allow us the opportunity to see other cultures and how they operate in a (military manner)," she said. Slovakian Staff Sgt. Miroslav Kolar, also noted the success of the morning's events.

"This has been good for us to work with our friends. We appreciate their help in transporting our equipment," he said.

We should all take time to pay the proper respects to 'Old Glory'

by Sgt. Brian O'Connor
DCO CMO PSO

Something has been troubling me lately. For three months now I have been unhappily watching soldiers just walk by our nation's colors, with no salute, or even a sign of recognition. I have yet to see one U.S. soldier render a hand salute to our flag. I salute our flag every time I walk by, not thinking of who is watching. I know who is watching, the men and woman who have served before me, the same people who have ensured that I can freely walk by a flag of our own.

Our flag has a lot of meaning in its history. For those who do not know, here is an explanation. The thirteen stripes symbolize the thirteen original colonies. The stars symbolize

the 50 states. The red signifies hardness and valor. The white signifies purity and innocence. The blue signifies vigilance, perseverance and justice. To me it has a deeper meaning, a more personal meaning. I think of the blood that was shed during the Revolutionary War. These brave soldiers fought for a better way of life for Americans. I imagine the struggles that were cast upon families as the men went off to war. The women who stayed home to raise the children and take care of their farms. It could not have been easy for them; then again they had a desire for freedom to help give a reason for their troubles.

During the early days of the flag's design, certain slogans were written on the flag. A few of them are, "Don't Tread On Me", "Hope", "Liberty or Death", and "Liberty", just to name a few. Today I feel an appropriate slogan

would be "Taken For Granted". We have taken so much glory away from "Old Glory".

I am outraged that flag burning is a Constitutional right given to Americans. Flag burning is protected by the 1st Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. There are other, verbal and written, ways to cast out disagreements.

In closing, I would like to say that I will continue to salute our nation's flag. I hope this will change your mind also. If not, I will be around to make an on-the-spot-correction. For those who do not know: 6 paces before and 6 paces after. There is one fellow soldier on Bondsteel that shows the honors owed to our flag, Sgt. Michael Campbell, of Fox Co. 58th Aviation. Finally three months later I have seen a soldier render a salute to our National Colors. Thank you for your display of pride in the flag of the United States of America.

Chaplain's Corner

Without ceasing: Anytime is a good time for prayer

by Chaplain (Capt.) Randall E. Bowen
TFF Chaplain

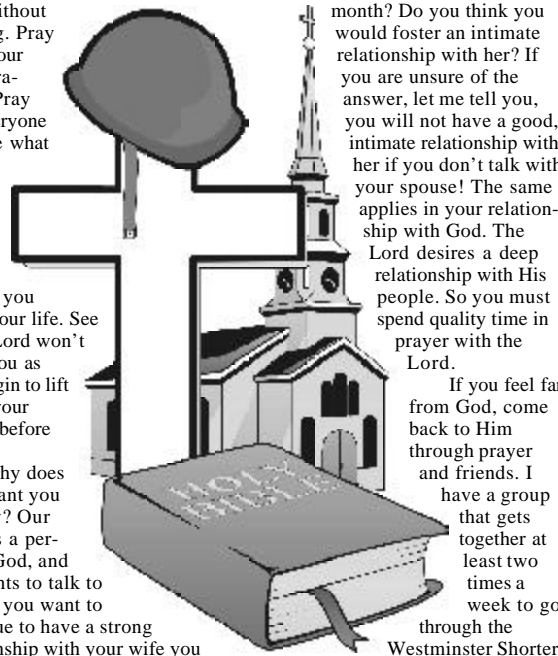
Pray without ceasing. Many people believe prayer is to take place in a church, on holy days, and on special occasions. Is this the only time to pray? Some people only pray when bad or tragic events occur. I have found when people lose their jobs, when they break up in a relationship or when someone dies – that is when people come to the Lord in prayer. But is this the only time to pray? Or is there another time when we should pray? It is my conviction that we should pray all the time. Pray during the good times as well as the bad times.

As spiritual beings we would be much more fulfilled if we brought God into all of our lives. Before you go to work pray for the Lord to bless your day - pray without ceasing. Before you are about to take a PT test or even going to the Gym - pray without ceasing. As you are walking around in your everyday activities - pray without ceasing. As you are about to talk with your boss who is difficult to work with - pray without ceasing. When you go to the movies -

pray without ceasing. Pray in all your deliberations. Pray for everyone and see what the Lord will do. Ask God

to lead you in all your life. See if the Lord won't bless you as you begin to lift up all your needs before God.

Why does God want you to pray? Our Lord is a personal God, and He wants to talk to you. If you want to continue to have a strong relationship with your wife you talk with her. What would happen if you just talked with her once a



month? Do you think you would foster an intimate relationship with her? If you are unsure of the answer, let me tell you, you will not have a good, intimate relationship with her if you don't talk with your spouse! The same applies in your relationship with God. The Lord desires a deep relationship with His people. So you must spend quality time in prayer with the Lord.

If you feel far from God, come back to Him through prayer and friends. I have a group that gets together at least two times a week to go through the Westminster Shorter Catechism. The purpose of our group is to help us cultivate a

deeper spiritual life. One soldier, a specialist, so desires to learn about the Lord that he frequently asks me to get together for Catechism. A few soldiers from the Catechism group meet with me on a daily basis for fellowship and prayer. We get together in order to facilitate a much more fervent walk with God. Of course, we frequent the Cappuccino Bar for a more stimulating discussion and a spirited game of Risk! I have another friend, a Captain, with whom I meet about four times a week for Morning Prayer. We get together to pray for family, friends and for our mission. We also read the Scriptures together. Meeting with all these soldiers has helped keep my life fervent for the Lord, and has helped others to have a much more dynamic walk with God.

If you would like a more dynamic spiritual life, I would encourage you to find at least one person to be a prayer partner with. Get with your friend at least once a week to pray to the Lord. See what God will do when you begin to pray to Him. Watch and see how prayer helps your entire life. Pray without ceasing. God speed.

CBS Worship Service

Peacekeepers Chapel (North)

Sunday

8 a.m., Episcopal/Lutheran
9:30 a.m., Roman Catholic Mass
11 a.m., Collective Protestant
12:30 p.m., Gospel Service

Monday

7 p.m., Women's and Single Soldiers' Bible studies

Tuesday

7 p.m., Catholic RCIA

Wednesday

12 p.m., Roman Catholic Mass
6:30 p.m., Prayer Service
7 p.m., Bible Studies

Thursday

7 p.m., Choir Rehearsal (Gospel)

Friday

12 p.m., Muslim Prayer Service
7 p.m., Gospel Joy Night Service

Saturday

6:30 p.m., Stay Faithful Marriage Bible Study

South Chapel

Sunday

8 a.m., Roman Catholic Mass
9:30 a.m., Collective Protestant
11 a.m., LDS Service
4 p.m., Gospel Service

Monday

7 p.m., Collective Protestant Choir Rehearsal

Tuesday

12 p.m., Roman Catholic Mass

Wednesday

7 p.m., Bible Study

Thursday

7 p.m., Bible Study

Friday

8 p.m., Jewish

Saturday

11 a.m., Seventh Day Adventist Service
7 p.m., Choir Rehearsal (Gospel)

CMT Worship Service

Sunday

9 - 10:30 a.m., General Protestant Service
11 a.m. - 1 p.m., Gospel Service
1:30 - 2:30 p.m., LDS Worship
7 - 8 p.m., Catholic Mass

Monday

7 p.m., Chapel Movie Night w/ Discussion

Tuesday

7 - 9 p.m., Gospel Worship Practice

Wednesday

6:30 - 7:30 p.m., Gospel Worship Practice
7:30 - 9 p.m., Bible Study

Thursday

6 - 7 p.m., General Protestant Practice
7 - 8 p.m., General Protestant Bible Study
8 - 9 p.m., General Protestant Worship

Friday

12 - 1 p.m., Muslim Service in Annex
7 - 8:30 p.m.

Saturday

11 a.m. - 12 p.m., Seventh Day Adventist Worship

Sector Worship

Protestant

Saturday

2 p.m., Debelde
4 p.m., Binac Church

Sunday

Camp Magrath, 10 a.m.
Zintinje Church, 11:30 a.m.
Klokot, 2 p.m.
Mogila, 3:30 p.m.
Vrbovac Church, 4:30 p.m.
Vrbovac, 7 p.m.

Latter Day Saints

Sunday

Camp Magrath, 2 p.m.

Roman Catholic

Monday

Klokot, 2 p.m.
Vrbovac, 4 p.m.
Camp Magrath, 7 p.m.

Other Activities

Sunday

Movie Night- 11 p.m.

Tuesday

Bible Study, 8 p.m.

(SCHOOL continued from page 12)

cannot be completed for the entire exterior at once.

TF Dragon with the help of the 27th Engineers hopes to accomplish one small repair at a time.

Task Force Dragon's second purpose for visiting the school is to photograph the children in their new hats and mittens. Land's End donated 600 sets of new hats and mittens to TF Dragon to give to the school children when we asked the company about any fund

matching programs they had. Instead of matching our funds donated by the families at Ft. Drum, Land's End went one step further and donated more hats and mittens than the TF could have purchased, even with matched funding. "It is great to see a business show so much interest in the welfare of others," said Capt. Craig McNamara, the TF Dragon Supply Officer. "This generous donation has not only put each of the students in a needed hat and

mittens, but it was enough to distribute to the children of the village who are not yet in school."

Mirjeta Deda was one recipient of a hat and mittens. Deda, an eight year-old local girl, seemed enthused. "You do a great thing", she said, beaming. "I am happy when I see American soldiers". Alban Koxhaj, one of her fellow classmates, seemed to concur. "I'm very happy when I see the soldiers and I wave at them."

The soldiers are also here to check for any final adjustments to the basketball hoop they made for the children, and see if any more rooms need to be painted. The basketball hoop was placed at the school with the help of the 27th Engineers, and during this same visit soldiers and KPC members painted some of the school interior. In reference to the new hoop the director, Enver Dallosi, commented "We all hope to have many challenging games when the weather allows".

Take a much needed day away skiing Brezovica's slopes

Full package includes ski pass, ski rental, ski lessons and snowboarding for 23 Euros

by Staff Sgt. Michael P. McCord
Press Section NCOIC

BREZOVICA, Kosovo—"If you have never skied before, a ski lesson is mandatory," said 1st Lt. Rachel

Voss, 27th Engineer Battalion, and OIC of the Brezovica Ski Resort.

Voss welcomes the soldiers to the resort from the day room on the second floor of the hotel. She and her staff go over the ground rules and activities available during their day trip.

"There are a lot of reasons for mandatory ski lessons, the biggest being—these are some tough slopes out here and we've got a very good ski school downstairs—The Borzani Group. So if you've never skied before, lessons are mandatory," she said. Sladjan Ilic Borza founded the Borzani Ski School in 1992. Borza was a member of the Yugoslavian Olympic Team in the Winter Games held in Albertville, France. His instructors offer professional ski and snowboard training for a fraction of what it would cost you in the states.

"The concept behind reopening the Brezovica ski resort, after it had been closed for the previous three seasons, was to provide economic development and job opportunities in the traditional industry of the Strpe and Brezovica areas," said Col. Larry Saul, TFF deputy commander for civil military operations. "The ski resort has been in existence since the 1960's, and was the alternate alpine ski venue for the 1984 Winter Olympics held in Sarajevo. So, twenty years ago this was pretty much a world-class event for Eastern European standards. Now that the ski resort is open and operational, we're able to go into phase two of the concept. That is a sports and recreation venue for our soldiers. It gives them an opportunity to go up there and participate in a great sport, relax, refresh and take a day off. Plus, for many American soldiers it's the first opportunity they get to participate in this great winter time activity," Saul said.

"I think it's a wonderful opportunity for the



Staff Sgt. Michael P. McCord/photo

A view of the Brezovica Ski Resort from atop Shara Mountain in the Sirinic Valley.

soldiers to get up here, take a day, get away and see that Kosovo is a little bit more than just a country that's been recently torn by war," Voss said. "If the soldier doesn't want to ski, MWR has provided a television, a VCR and AFN satellite, and will be providing us games and other things so they can just come up and relax for the day. There's a full service restaurant and cappuccino bar that preventative med. has

worked with to make sure they're up to U.S. codes and standards for our soldiers to be able to eat there."

The ski resort is set in the Shara Mountains and covered with plenty of blinding white snow. The second floor restaurant offers a beautiful view of the surrounding mountains.

Pfc. Jahi Taylor, C Co./10th Signal Battalion, "It's different. It will be a good morale booster for the soldiers," Taylor said as he tried to get the hang of a snowboard attached to his ski boots. "Keep an open mind and come with the best intentions," advised Taylor.

Staff Sgt. Stanley Siepka, TFF HHC (10th Mountain Division), Camp Bondsteel, was looking into the future. "Probably not this rotation, but the next rotation they'll start overnight trips as an alternative, or in addition to the Sofia, Bulgaria trips,"

Rescue and medical personnel are available if needed.

Sgt. 1st Class Nathaniel Ware, 1st Battalion of the 32nd Infantry Regiment (TF 1-32 Infantry "Chosin"), Camp Magrath said, "I'm here checking it out, (ski resort) for things for the soldiers to do," he said. "Our soldiers want to relax, ski, snowboard and just have a good time."

The ski trip will be on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays for Camp Bondsteel. Camp Monteith and Camp Magrath will have Tuesdays and Thursdays. CBS soldiers can sign-up at the Southtown MWR Community Center. The bus will leave CBS Theater at 7:30 a.m. and will return at 5:30 p.m. Have your pass signed by your commander in order to board the bus. Uniform for the trip are

civilian clothes with kevlar and flak vest (weapons are to be left with your unit). The prices are as follows:

Ski pass: 15DM or 8 Euros
Ski rental: 10 DM or 5 Euros
Ski lessons: 10 DM or 5 Euros
Snowboarding: 10 DM or 5 Euros



Staff Sgt. Michael P. McCord/photo

Soldiers attempt to get their "ski-legs" by taking lessons from the professional ski instructors on staff at the Brezovica Ski Resort. Lessons are mandatory for first-time skiers.